

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 are currently being amended.

Claims 11-15 are currently being added.

This amendment and reply adds and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After adding and amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-14 are now pending in this application.

Objection to the Claims:

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 were objected to because they appear to be alike except for the swapping of names between 'first protection section' and 'second protection section.' By way of this amendment and reply, claim 2 has been amended to be in means plus function format, and thus of different scope than claim 1. Also, the phrase "or the like" has been removed from claims 1 and 2, thereby overcoming the objection to these claims.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-6, 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,973,897 to Opris et al.; and claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Opris et al. in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0165009 to Olivier. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Presently pending independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to recite that the first protection section is connected to a first node that also connects the input of the operational amplifier, the feedback resistor, and the input resistor. Such connectivity is not taught or suggested by Opris et al., and would not have been obvious to do even if one would have added an input resistor and a feedback resistor to the ESD protection circuit of Opris et al.

Accordingly, presently pending independent claims 1 and 2, as well as the claims that depend from claims 1 and 2, are patentable over the cited art of record.

New Claims:

New claims 11-15 have been added to recite additional features of the present invention that are believed to provide an additional basis of patentability for those claims, beyond the reasons given above for their respective base claim.

For example, with respect to new claims 11 and 12, Figures 5 and 6 of Opris et al. do not show such a use of the power supplies VDD and VSS/GND to a circuit to be protected (not shown) by the ESD protection circuit. Also, with respect to new claims 13 and 14, which recite that the wherein the first protection section (or means) consists of a first diode and the second protection section consists of a second diode, Figure 6 of Opris et al. shows the use of multiple diodes D1a, D1b and D2a, D2b for his protection sections.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

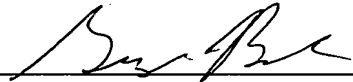
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment,

to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 24, 2006

By _____

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

George C. Beck
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 38,072